

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 03789 121430Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9191

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: CDS LEADERS WISH TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL

1. PROFESSOR FREITAS DO AMARAL, LEADER OF CDS AND CIVILIAN MEMBER OF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, AND CDS LEADER ADELINO AMARO DA COSTA HAVE BEEN IN LONDON AS GUESTS CONSERVATIVE PARTY SINCE LAST WEEK. THEIR RETURN TO LISBON SCHEDULED FOR TODAY HAS BEEN HELD UP BY CLOSING OF AIRPORT, REPORTED TO BE INTERMITTENT TODAY, AS WELL AS BY THEIR CONCERN THAT THEY MAY BE ARRESTED UPON ARRIVAL IN PORTUGAL.
2. CONSERVATIVE PARTY SOURCE HAS SAID BOTH OF PORTUGUESE HAVE SENT CABLES TO AFM POINTING OUT THEY WERE NOT INVOLVED IN COUP AND INDICATING THEIR INTENTION OF RETURNING.
3. CONSERVATIVE PARTY NOW ATTEMPTING TELEPHONE BRITISH EMBASSY LISBON AS TO SAFETY CONDITIONS FOR RETURN TO PORTUGAL OF THEIR GUESTS. THEY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION US EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE PROVIDE AS TO SAFETY IN GENERAL AND WHETHER NAMES OF TWO CDS GUESTS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH COUP.

RICHARDSON

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